

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 NEA-10 EUR-12 EB-07 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /106 W

-----060514Z 015529 /11

R 051105Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7436

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1040

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CH, MR, GW

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO PEKING

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 886 (NOTAL)

1. IN VIEW OF WEST GERMAN EMBASSY IN PEKING, CHINESE HAVE INTRODUCED A NEW "RESERVE" IN THEIR EARLIER VERY WARM AND VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH MAURITANIANS. CHINESE STILL ACKNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATE IMPORTANT ROLE MAURITANIANS PLAYED LATE IN 1960S IN HELPING PEKING ACQUIRE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE, BUT APPEAR TO HAVE DECIDED IN SOMEWHAT HARDNOSE FASHION THAT THAT WAS TEN YEARS AGO. TODAY, CHINA HAS OTHER FRIENDS IN AFRICA WHO ARE LARGER AND MORE INFLUENTIAL. MOREOVER, CHINESE HAVE COME TO RECOGNIZE THAT WIDE PHILOSOPHICAL/ IDEOLOGICAL/DOCTRINAL GAP BETWEEN CONTEMPORARY CHINA AND MOSLEM MAURITANIA CAN NEVER BE BRIDGED, THAT CHINESE POLITICAL/ SOCIAL/ECONOMIC SYSTEM CAN PROBABLY NEVER BE IMPLANTED IN MAURITANIA. REALISM THEREFORE DICTATES CONCENTRATION OF CHINESE RESOURCES AND EFFORTS ELSEWHERE. BUT IN APPRECIATION OF PAST
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SUPPORT, PEKING INTENDS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA AND TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST MAURITANIANS IN DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRY.

2. ABOVE OBSERVATION/JUDGMENT WAS SET FORTH IN REPORTING TELEGRAM DRAFTED BY FRG EMBASSY IN PEKING FOLLOWING OULD DADDAH VISIT WHICH WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR SHARED WITH ME

MAY 4. WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND USLO COMMENTS.

3. REFERRING PERIODICALLY TO FRG EMBASSY PEKING TELEGRAM AND TRANSLATING/SUMMARIZING ASNVE WENT, AMBASSADOR NAGEL ALSO NOTED: CHINESE HAD REITERATED THEIR POSTURE OF STRICT NEUTRALITY ON SAHARA DISPUTE AND THEIR VIEW THAT THREE COUNTRIES INVOLVED (MAURITANIA, MOROCCO AND ALGERIA) MUST THEMSELVES EVOLVE SATISFACTORY SOLUTION: SOVIET BANQUETWALKOUT; CHINESE AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE SELLING RICE AND TEA TO MAURITANIA AT ADVANTAGEOUS PRICES BUT FOR CASH; CHINESE DISINTEREST (REFUSAL) TO PURCHASE MAURITANIAN IRON ORE OR COPPER IN RETURN; MAURITANIAN INSISTENCE THAT CHINESE PROVIDE DEFINITIVE INDICATION ONE WAY OR OTHER ON FINAOCING AND CONSTRUCTION OF NOUAKCHOTT PORT PROJECT. GIRM DELEGATION REPORTEDLY TOLD CHINESE THAT THEY HAD TO HAVE DECISION BEFORE END OF 1977 TO ENABLE THEM TO SEEK HELP ELSEWHERE (IMPLICATION WAS FROM SAUDI ARABIA) IF CHINESE DECIDED AGAINST CARRYING OUT PORT PROJECT.

4. NAGEL THEN REPORTED THAT GIRM FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS, IN ANSWER TO FRG AMBASSADOR'S DIRECT QUESTION APRIL 23, HAD STATED THAT CHINESE HAD AGREED TO FINANCE AND BUILD PORT, AND THAT GIRM AND PEKING HAD SIGNED FORMAL AGREEMENT TO THIS EFFECT. (THUS INFORMATION WE REPORTED REFTEL COMES INTO GENERAL CIRCULATION.)

HANDYSIDE

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